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FOR: Yogesh C. Garg - Art Unit 3625
COMPANY: United States Patent and Trademark Office
FROM: John W. LaBatt
DATE: October 1, 2002
NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 2
DESTINATION PHONE NUMBER: (703) 872-9326
NOTE:

Please see attached Amendment for Application Serial No. 09/634,435.

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10/7/02

Art Unit: 3625

Docket No.: JA999802

Examiner: Garg, Yogesh C.

**Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

Sir:

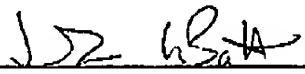
Claims 19-38 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, the Office withdrew claims 19-31 and 38 from consideration as allegedly being directed to a non-elected invention; claim 32 was objected to for including an informality; and claims 32-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Zeanah.

Applicant's representative appreciates the courtesies provided by the Examiner regarding this Office Action. In a telephone interview between Applicant's representative and the Examiner on August 8, 2002, it was determined that the election requirement was improper because Applicant previously filed a request for continued examination. The Examiner stated that the Office Action dated July 2, 2002 would be withdrawn, and a new Office Action would be provided in the coming weeks.

In a second telephone interview conducted on September 9, 2002, the Examiner confirmed that the previous Office Action would be withdrawn and a new Office Action would be provided. On September 30, 2002, the Examiner left a telephone message with Applicant's representative stating that the previous Office Action has been withdrawn, and a new Office Action has been sent for mailing sometime during the week.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that no response to the substance of the Office Action dated July 2, 2002 is required. Should the Examiner require anything further, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


 John W. LaBatt
 Reg. No.: 48,301

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